

Dear FCC Chairman Ajit Pai,

You have recently released your plans to disassemble your “net neutrality” protection laws under Title II of the Communications Act, which shield the public from anti-consumer behaviors of the giant cable companies that provide high-speed internet to most people. I have grown up with the connotation that the internet is a limitless stream of information and a very versatile tool. I have utilized the net for countless things including: homework, communication with distant relatives, creative projects, entertainment, and a myriad of questions. I am currently a college student studying computer science, which has only elevated my demand for high-speed internet. Under your new laws, you give ISPs the right to grant “fast lanes” to favorable partnerships. What if I need to access my university’s online portal to see my homework or online lecture, and I am subjected to painfully slow connection because my nearby peers pay higher fees to get better access? On average, there are only one or two local ISPs that have the infrastructure to support the loads of bandwidth necessary for competent data speeds. The FCC argues that this initiative will actually help consumers due to competition among ISPs lowering costs of high-speed internet. There is a major flaw when delving deeper into this: you argue there are enough internet providers nationwide that pose sufficient competition at the 3 megabytes per second range of internet speed. This assertion is completely misleading to many Americans who are unaware of what a sufficient internet speed is. 3 mbps is such a insignificant speed that I am unsure I could stream a video without it pausing every other minute. I, as a student, could not utilize the internet without becoming irritated at the constant pauses and loading times. To even comfortably browse the internet it is recommended to have at least 6 mbps, while most people are probably sitting around 20 mbps connection. We, as a society, are becoming more and more dependant on our connection to the internet. I cannot think of the last time I didn’t access the internet at least once during a day. It has become so intertwined into our daily lives that I believe any threat to the internet is a threat to our rights as citizens of the United States. This act, in my eyes, is very unethical, and can lead down a road of censorship or faulty security. Imagine if an important election was about to take place, but an ISP only allowed high-speed internet to news outlets favoring a particular candidate or ballot. Even worse, what if a foreign country bought as much broadband as possible around a particular location before overloading it with a cyber attack? These possibilities are rather far-fetched, but definitely not out of the question. Please, if you value the sanctity of equality and freedom that our nation is built, then don’t allow the FCC to pass this initiative.

Sincerely,
Dawson A Lind